

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

Listing of claims:

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) A short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule having a sense strand and an antisense strand that mediates RNA interference, wherein:

(a) each strand is between 18 and ~~27~~ 24 nucleotides in length;

(b) the sense strand comprises ~~40~~ one or more 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, or universal base modified nucleotides, and a terminal cap molecule at the 3'-end, the 5'-end, or both 3' and 5'-ends of the sense strand; ~~and~~

(c) the antisense strand comprises ~~40~~ one or more 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, or universal base modified nucleotides; and

(d) 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides of the sense and antisense strand are 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl or 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) The siRNA molecule of claim 52, wherein the sense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

55. (Previously presented) The siRNA molecule of claim 52, wherein the antisense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

56. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the siRNA molecule of claim 52 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

57. (New) The siRNA molecule of claim 52, wherein 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides of the sense and antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl nucleotides.

58. (New) The siRNA molecule of claim 52, wherein 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides of the sense and antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides.
59. (New) A short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule having a sense strand and an antisense strand that mediates RNA interference, wherein:
- (a) each strand is between 18 and 24 nucleotides in length;
  - (b) the sense strand comprises one or more 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, or universal base modified nucleotides, and a terminal cap molecule at the 3'-end, the 5'-end, or both 3' and 5'-ends of the sense strand;
  - (c) the antisense strand comprises one or more 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, or universal base modified nucleotides; and
  - (d) 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides of the sense or antisense strand are 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl or 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides.
60. (New) The siRNA molecule of claim 59, wherein the sense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.
61. (New) The siRNA molecule of claim 59, wherein the antisense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.
62. (New) A composition comprising the siRNA molecule of claim 59 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
63. (New) The siRNA molecule of claim 59, wherein 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides of the sense or antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl nucleotides.
64. (New) The siRNA molecule of claim 59, wherein 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides of the sense or antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides.